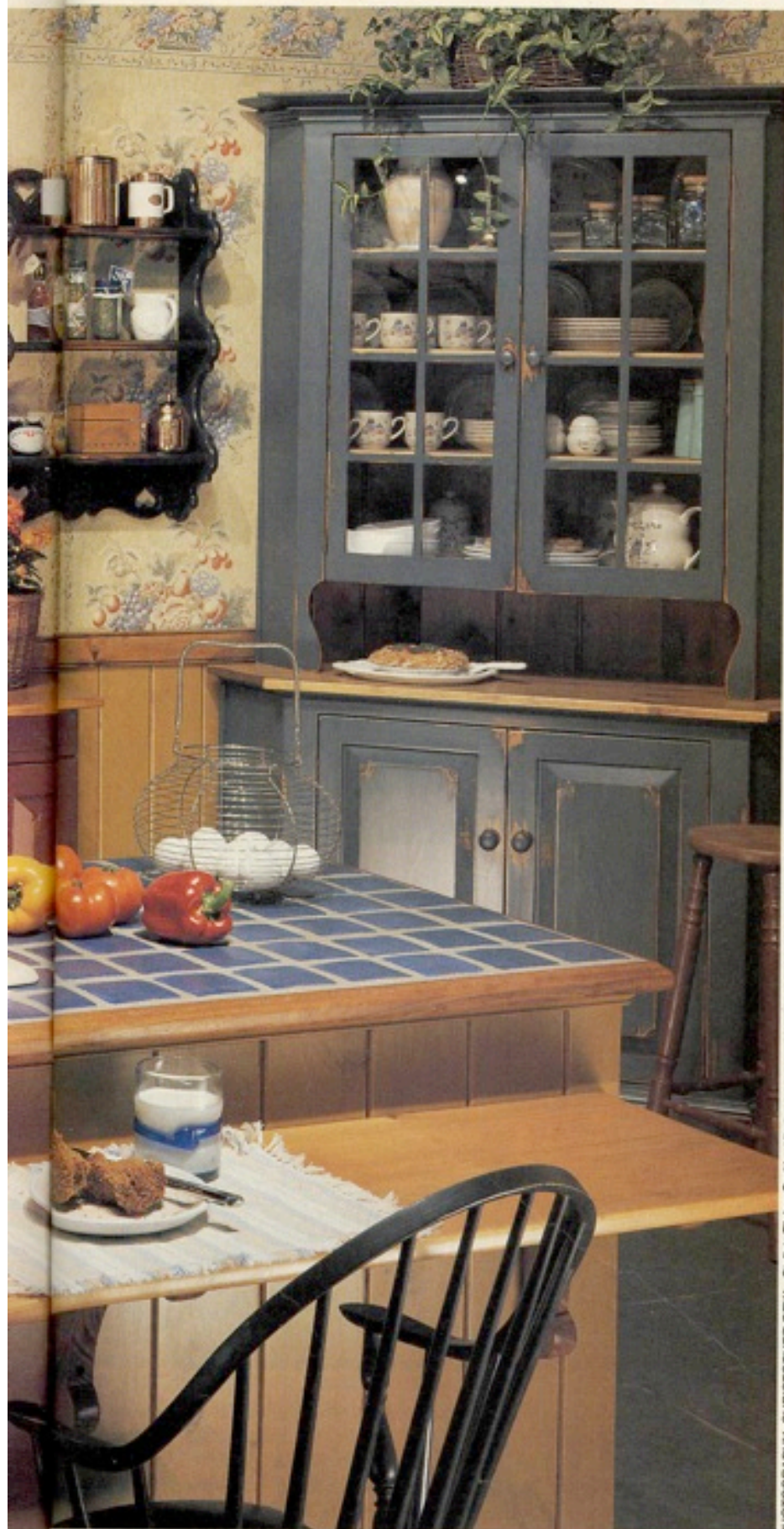




Authentic milk-painted reproduction pine kitchen furniture combines up-to-date storage and maintenance technology with old-fashioned style.



Back to the future

Old-fashioned
kitchen furniture
is back in style

In Grandma's day, kitchens were filled with furniture, the kind that nowadays you see only at antique fairs and estate auctions. Jam cupboards, dry sinks, harvest tables, hutches and corner cupboards made of natural, bare pine were all named for the purpose they served. Bread was kneaded and pie crusts rolled at the harvest table, not a baking counter. Preserves were kept in cupboards, and dishes were stored in flat-to-the-wall hutches.

It all sounds so charming, especially if you love the country look in decorating. Yet, through the years, we've become so used to the high-tech

BY LYNETTE JENNINGS

PHOTOGRAPHY, CHRISTOPHER DEW Stylist, Elaine Smith Kitchen accessories, Wares & Waves and Inquisitive



It's not hard to appreciate a "furniture"-style kitchen. In fact, you'll find more nooks, crannies and areas to visibly store kitchen paraphernalia than in a conventional kitchen. Completing the feeling of country is a contemporary gas stove in the guise of an old-fashioned wood-burning oven.

efficiency of wall-to-wall shelves in boxes with 180-degree hinges, sleek counters and almost invisible built-in appliances that it's hard (let alone frightening) to imagine renovating to bygone times.

Does it mean you have to compromise modern efficiencies? No. One of

the hottest new trends on the design scene coming simultaneously from Europe and North America is the "furnished kitchen." Because kitchen manufacturers don't build furniture, traditional furniture manufacturers are generating these new kitchens. Although you can't shop for a kitchen in

The integrated features of contemporary kitchens are combined with traditional furniture-making skills. Details such as a handy tilt-out storage door beneath the sink and a tucked-away cubby in the end of the island typify the original antiques of the era. Countertops of solid select pine or cherry are treated for kitchen abuse.

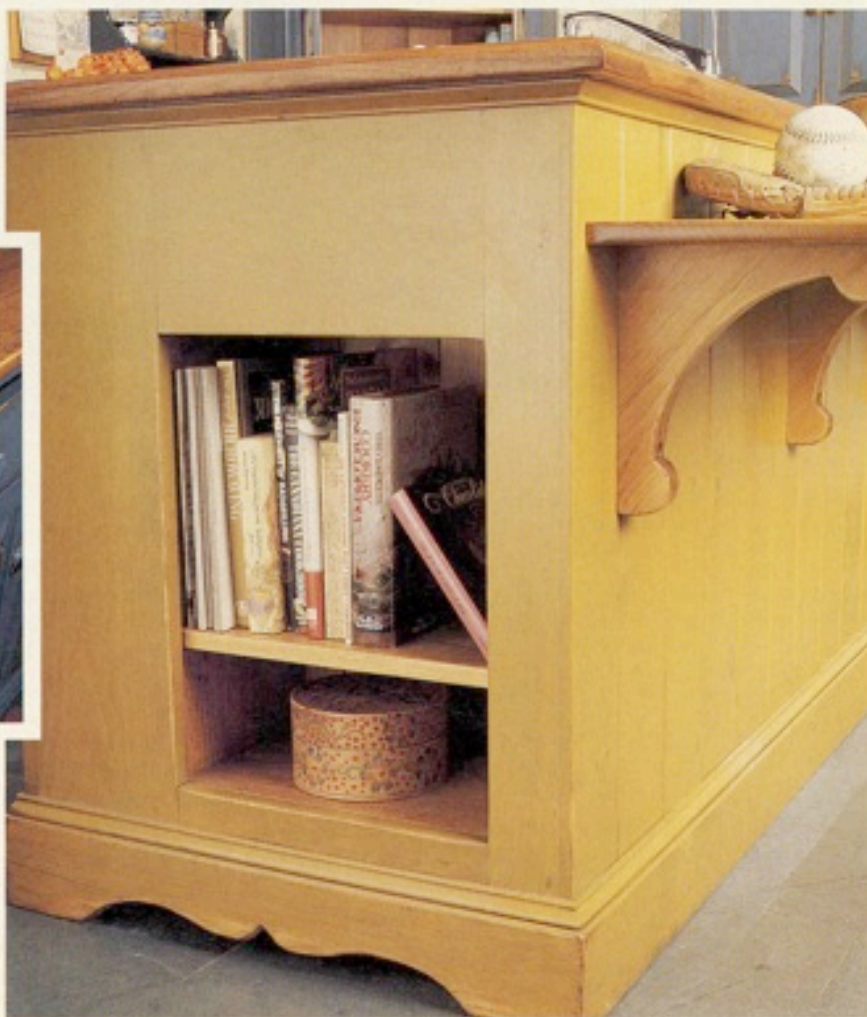


a furniture store yet, it is coming, however, and Nitty Gritty Reproductions of Toronto is at the forefront of this new trend.

The store's entrée into the kitchen business began several years ago when customers began to design their kitchens to match Nitty Gritty's line of hand-built, milk-painted reproduc-



tion furniture sold under the name of Our Painted Past Country Furniture. Carl Druker's and John Swainson's skilled staff build and finish solid select pine and solid cherry furniture using original hand-crafted techniques. At the same time, they incorporate modern-day efficiencies to ensure that the furniture will live up to contemporary use. Tucked behind the





Carl Drucker's background in East Coast Canadiana antiques has inspired the design of many pieces. Instead of just copying period furniture, new pieces are designed mimicking authentic styles and proportions, as in this buffet-style bar counter.

charming satiny smooth, waxed-finished, raised panelled doors of an armoire might be cabinetry for a microwave centre, an entertainment system or a computerized workstation.

Here, in our *Canadian Living* 1991 Dream Kitchen, what appears to be a country store counter is really an island topped with handmade tile. As well as providing the needed work surface, the island houses the sink, dishwasher and tilt-out utility spaces under the sink.

Although not typical of the furniture in an 1800s' kitchen, an eating counter adds up-to-date convenience. With jigged curved brackets styled from the same period, the counter is perfectly in character with the rest of the kitchen furnishings.

Even the colors of the kitchen are authentic because Drucker mixes oxide colors to make a milk-paint palette. The lime in milk paint allows it to chemically bond with the wood, so the paint won't chip or yellow. It wears extremely well, yet still allows the grain to show. Because milk paint is porous, the wood is maintained with refined Danish oil, which retards drying or cracking — an important feature in our dry-heat Canadian winters. You can also apply lacquer over milk paint for a maintenance-free finish.

Although we've incorporated the past in our kitchen with the reproduction Canadiana furniture of the mid-1800s, we haven't compromised any of the conveniences that everyone is now used to having in the kitchen —



from pot drawers to integrated large appliances that match the cabinets. Self-mortising hinges on flush-fit doors allow for 180-degree swings. Drawers slide on full-extension ball-bearing sliders. Countertops are treated so that they are easy to maintain, with edge mouldings that can accommodate tile, marble or slate.

Our Dream Kitchen for '91 reflects up-to-date efficiency combined with the new decade's preoccupation with themes of warmth, comfort and an affinity for historical classics.

SOURCES

Kitchen cabinets: Nitty Gritty Reproductions, 163 Queen St. E., Toronto M5A 1S1

Floor: Acme Slate & Tile Company Ltd., 21 Golden Gate Court, Scarborough, Ont. M1P 3A4

Tile countertop: Country Tiles, 321 Davenport Rd., Toronto M5R 1K5

Stove: Elmira Stove & Fireplace, 22 Church St. W., Elmira, Ont. N3B 1M3

Sink: Kohler Ltd., 195 The West Mall, Suite 314, Etobicoke, Ont. M9C 5K1

Wallpaper: Walter L. Brown Ltd., 17 Vickers Rd., Toronto M9B 1C2 ●



Drawers for pots and hinges that swing cupboard doors 180 degrees open are conveniences developed by kitchen manufacturers that have spoiled us. Here are two examples that combine new technology with old style.

